

**ROCK ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

February 24, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rock Island School District was held Tuesday, February 24, 2009 in the Library at Rock Island High School. President Earl Strupp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Bill Cleaver, Ms. Linda Dothard, Mr. Dave Rockwell, Mr. Earl Strupp, Mr. Jerry Tutskey, and Mr. Jim Veasey. Student member - Ashley Dean

Members Absent: Mr. Russ Kennel, student members Spencer Brooks and Christopher Giles

Staff Present: Mr. Jim Andrews, Mr. Ken Jaeke, Mr. Rick Loy, Dr. Michael Oberhaus, and Mr. Bill Osborne

Recognition of Illinois Principal of the Year

Mr. Strupp and Mr. Loy recognized Mr. Michael Russell as the Illinois Principal of the Year. They congratulated him for the honor. He will now compete for Principal of the Year nationally.

Approval of Board of Education Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Veasey and seconded by Mr. Tutskey to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of January 27, 2009 and February 10, 2009. All members present voting "Aye", the President declared the motion carried.

Communications from Citizens

None

Reports from Board Members

Mr. Veasey attended Head Start policy council meetings in January and February. At the meeting in January a program self-assessment was conducted. In February strengths were identified along with opportunities to improve the program.

Mr. Cleaver on February 10th read at Longfellow Elementary. He enjoys these opportunities.

Ms. Dothard attended regional girl's basketball game. The team won the regional championship. She congratulated the team and coach. She attended a presentation of the Tuskegee Airmen at her work last month. It was a great presentation, yet no one from Rock Island was present. She will provide the high school with times and dates of similar upcoming events.

Mr. Rockwell received several notes and communications on a couple of topics that have been recently discussed by the Board. He will not read or respond to an unsigned letter. He is willing to listen to any comments or communications that are signed.

Mr. Strupp updated the Board on the progress of the chess program in math classes. There are now 14 classes. It is a joy for him to participate. There are clubs formed at Edison and Washington. He is working on getting a chess club at the High School.

Ms. Dean shared that the girls track team began competition today. She announced that the Swirl dance is this Saturday, music ensemble competition is this weekend and the boys' basketball game is Friday at UTHS. She shared that the arts ensemble club will be performing for students on Friday at 9:34 a.m. It is an original play by the director.

Report from Superintendent

Mr. Loy congratulated the Speech team for winning at the state competition. He reminded the Board that March 11th the IASB regional dinner meeting will be held in East Moline. Please contact Kim Colson to register. He passed out a summary of the Economic Stimulus plan as presented at the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) conference. Per his sources, over the next two years, the District should receive \$1.2 Million for Title I and \$1.6 Million for IDEA. One group he talked to at the AASA conference was the national chess association. Their programs begin in grade 3. He received materials regarding the programs and other offerings of the Association. He will send out a summary to the Board in the next few days. A reminder to the Board was given that the District will receive bids on March 5th for Jefferson Elementary, March 9th for Frances Willard Elementary at 11:00 a.m. and Denkmann at 3:00 p.m.

Report from RIEA Representative

Mr. Smith reported that a group called KIDS First is attempting to pass an initiative to provide funding for educational facilities in the County. The Rock Island Education Association will be supporting economically the campaign through its membership and economically.

Citizens addressing the Board on items not on the Agenda

Mr. Steve Clark, 1701 88th Street W., Rock Island. Mr. Clark addressed the Board on a couple of thoughts. He shared that in his position with the IASB he works with many school boards throughout the State. Many are very impressed with the Rock Island School District. As an honorary basketball coach last week, he was privileged to meet and witness that the players were very courteous and polite.

Nomination of Agenda Items for Future Meetings of the Board

None

Action on Routine Matters

- Act on Agenda Additions and/or Deletions.

None

- Approve agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Rockwell and seconded by Ms. Dothard to approve the agenda as presented. A voice vote was called showing all members present voting "Aye". No "Nay" votes being case, the President declared the motion carried.

- Blanket Motion

It was moved by Mr. Veasey and seconded by Mr. Rockwell and unanimously carried by a roll call vote that the following items be approved as a blanket motion:

- VI. E. That the Board of Education approve the February Fund Raisers.
- VII. A. 2. That the Board of Education award a contract to Nightwatch Security, Long Grove, Iowa for security camera upgrades at the High School in the amount of \$29,037.
- VII. A. 3. That the Board of Education approve a contract with Missman Stanley & Associates, Bettendorf, Iowa to provide engineering services for exterior wall restoration project at the High School at a cost not to exceed \$7,000.
- VII. A. 4. That the Board of Education approve the purchase of a van to Gem City Ford, Quincy, Illinois in the amount of \$33,230.
- VII. A. 5. That the Board of Education award a contract to Trane Company, Davenport, Iowa for annual maintenance at the chillers at the High School in the amount of \$4,998.
- VII. B. That the Board of Education acknowledge the following donations:
- Black Hawk College** – Unknown amount - furniture for classroom use at Longfellow Elementary.
- Augustana College Reading and Writing Center** - \$1,250 – books for distribution to students and classrooms at Longfellow Elementary.
- United Way** - \$119.85 – classroom items at SKIP.
- Charles Dix & Mary Brodd** - \$25.00 – Student reward program at Washington Junior High.
- R. I. Elks Association** - \$500.00 – Tee shirts and equipment for SKIP students' therapy and weighted blankets.
- Gerard Reda** - \$500 – to purchase ID badge supplies for High School.
- Jeff Reddig/Hardees** - \$250 – Cheesburgers, cookies and celebration beads for behavior incentives for students at Longfellow Elementary.
- VII. C. That the Board of Education approve the January financial statements.

- VII. D. That the Board of Education approve bills for payment dated February 15, 2009 in the amount of \$2,634,902.45.
- VIII. A. That the Board of Education approve certified rehire of Diana Alm for second semester at the High School at a cost of \$11,112.30.
- VIII. B. That the Board of Education approve the non-certified appointment of Andrea Sullivan for the remained of the 2008-09 school year at a cost of \$5,865.86.

Longfellow/Augustana Partnership

Mr. Dave Knuckey, Principal Longfellow Elementary, Dr. Chuck Hyser, Augustana College, and Dr. Patricia Shea, Augustana College provided information on the partnership including the history of the genesis of the partnership and the progress made to date on preparations for the opening of the revamped Liberal Arts focused school next fall. (see PowerPoint presentation). Dr. Hyser shared how unique this partnership is throughout the country. The Board thanked Augustana for partnering with Longfellow Elementary.

Targeting Achievement through Governance (TAG)

Mr. Steve Clark, Illinois Association of School Boards, presented the Board with information on the second phase of training for the TAG program. Mr. Clark spoke of the benefits of the training. Phase two training allows for flexibility in what type of training that is most pertinent for the Board Members and Superintendent. The Board chooses between two and five topics for the training. At the end, a Board self-evaluation will be undertaken. This program takes place over a period of time not to exceed 18 months. Each session would last approximately 3 hours. The Board discussed and asked several questions of Mr. Clark. The Board will consider this program and respond back to Mr. Clark.

Policy Revisions

The second reading of revised or new Board Policies 4:20, 4:55, 4:50, 5:150, 5:190, 5:240, 6:60, 6:120, 6:230 and 7:330 took place. The first reading occurred on February 10, 2009. The Cabinet Members briefly reviewed the changes.

A motion was made by Mr. Rockwell and seconded by Mr. Cleaver that the Board of Education adopt the policy revisions as recommended. A voice vote was taken showing all present voting "Aye". The President declared the motion carried.

Naming of the New School

Berlinda Tyler-Jamison, 2701 17th Street, Rock Island. She is representing NAACP as the Education Chair and as a long-time resident. She spoke on behalf of consideration for Charles and Annie Robinson for the name of the school. The NAACP of Rock Island County supports this name. She spoke about both Annie and Charles and their accomplishments in the District. They also helped to build and strengthen the black middle class in Rock Island. Such a name would send a great message to the students and parents in this community. This name would make positive history in the Quad Cities as it would be the first African-American named school. Her requested name honors classroom teachers by naming a school after them. Some names previously discussed have been benign or historical. The District needs to have a progressive

name. She thanked the Board Members for all the time they put in to keep the school district thriving.

Julie Hanson, 2223 17th Street, Rock Island. She thanked the Board for listening to the parents and staff of the new school to act on a name quickly. Secondly, over the past two weeks she has been approached by many individuals. Most requested that the Board return to the community report provided from the committee set up by the Board. There is large support for including the name "Villa" in the name.

Cheryl Cordon, 2234 14th Street, Rock Island. She has been a long-time teacher. She suggested that the name should not be one specific name of an educator when many educators have contributed greatly to the District. She believes that the school should include "Villa" in the name.

Mr. Loy shared that three corporate grants have been written. Not having a name would diminish the opportunity to compete with other schools that have been named.

The Board discussed the process, thanked people for their comments and passion. They spoke about their reservations for certain names. Mr. Rockwell spoke about how important the school location was to the community. A special math and science center is being put into a location with a small neighborhood. It represents an entire community. The exception is Highland Park across the street. He recommended that the Board consider naming the school the Highland Park Center for Math and Science. This will help to bring the neighborhood and school closer together. Mr. Veasey spoke about how he moved from the Rock Island Academy, but believes that bringing in the Highland Park neighborhood name, but some portion of the building be named after the Robinsons. Ms. Dothard still does not feel that the school needs to be named tonight. But she will move forward with the Board. She is willing to yield to name the school. She will agree with Mr. Rockwell since she has only heard from a few citizens in favor of the Villa name. Mr. Tutskey continually received the comment that the building should not be named after any individuals. The Robinsons were wonderful role models and committed to the school district and community. He would support naming some portion of the building or grounds after them. He would agree the Highland Park name. Mr. Cleaver is pleased the name includes components of what the school will be doing, math and science. He also does not find the name containing Highland Park being objectionable. He agrees that something be named in honor of the Robinsons. Ms. Robinson was a science teacher who was always growing things. Mr. Robinson also grew students and staff for many years. He would like to recognize their accomplishments of growth through consideration of some portion being named. Ms. Dothard is not particularly in favor of Highland Park. All schools are in a neighborhood. She hopes that all the neighbors support the students, staff and school. They have been a significant part of the process. Not in support of the school being named Highland Park. Mr. Strupp stated that he and Ms. Dothard have been unwavering in their support of naming the school after the Robinsons. He is a realist. He understands that he would not be able to get enough votes to name the school after the Robinsons. He likes the idea of naming the property after the Robinsons. It is a unique property with unique trees found no where else in the Quad-Cities. He would like the name to be Highland Park Center for Math and Science in Robinson Woods. Ms. Dothard suggested consideration of Rock Island Center for Math and Science with a wing of the building being named for the Robinsons. Mr. Rockwell questioned if Milan needed to be included in the name.

Mr. Rockwell commented that the Board needs to develop some process to honor those staff members that have been very loyal and dedicated to the School District.

It was moved by Mr. Cleaver and seconded by Mr. Veasey that the new school be named Rock Island Center for Math and Science. A roll call vote was taken showing all present voting “Aye”. There being no “Nay” votes, the President declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Cleaver and seconded by Mr. Tutskey that the grounds be called Robinson Woods. Mr. Rockwell said that he would like to have some process put in place to handle honoring all staff in a fair manner. By voting on the Robinsons, start a precedent that could be problematic. Board discussed prior naming decisions that have occurred.

A roll call vote was taken showing Mr. Veasey, Ms. Dothard, Mr. Tutskey, Mr. Cleaver and Mr. Strupp voting “Aye”. Mr. Rockwell voted “Nay”. The President declared the motion carried.

Architectural – Centralized Kitchet/RIHS Entryway

Mr. Loy recommended that the Board table this action until further information becomes available regarding funding opportunities from the recently passed Economic Stimulus package from the Federal Government.

The Board agreed to table this item until a later meeting.

Executive Session

It was moved by Ms. Dothard and seconded by Mr. Veasey that the Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss acquisition of property and personnel. A voice vote was taken showing all present voting “Aye”. The President declared the motion carried.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Return to Open Session

It was moved by Jim Veasey and seconded by Bill Cleaver that the Board of Education return to open session at 8:20 p.m. A voice vote was taken showing all members present voting “Aye”. The President declared the motion carried.

Adjournment

It was moved by and seconded by that the Board Meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken showing all members present voting “Aye”. The President declared the meeting adjourned at p.m.